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THE RUSTIC CITRANGE.¹

All of the citranges which have been named have tree characters which render them desirable for cultivation in the South as ornamental lawn trees or hedge plants, entirely aside from their value for the fruit they produce. Hybrid No. 783, which is a seedling from the

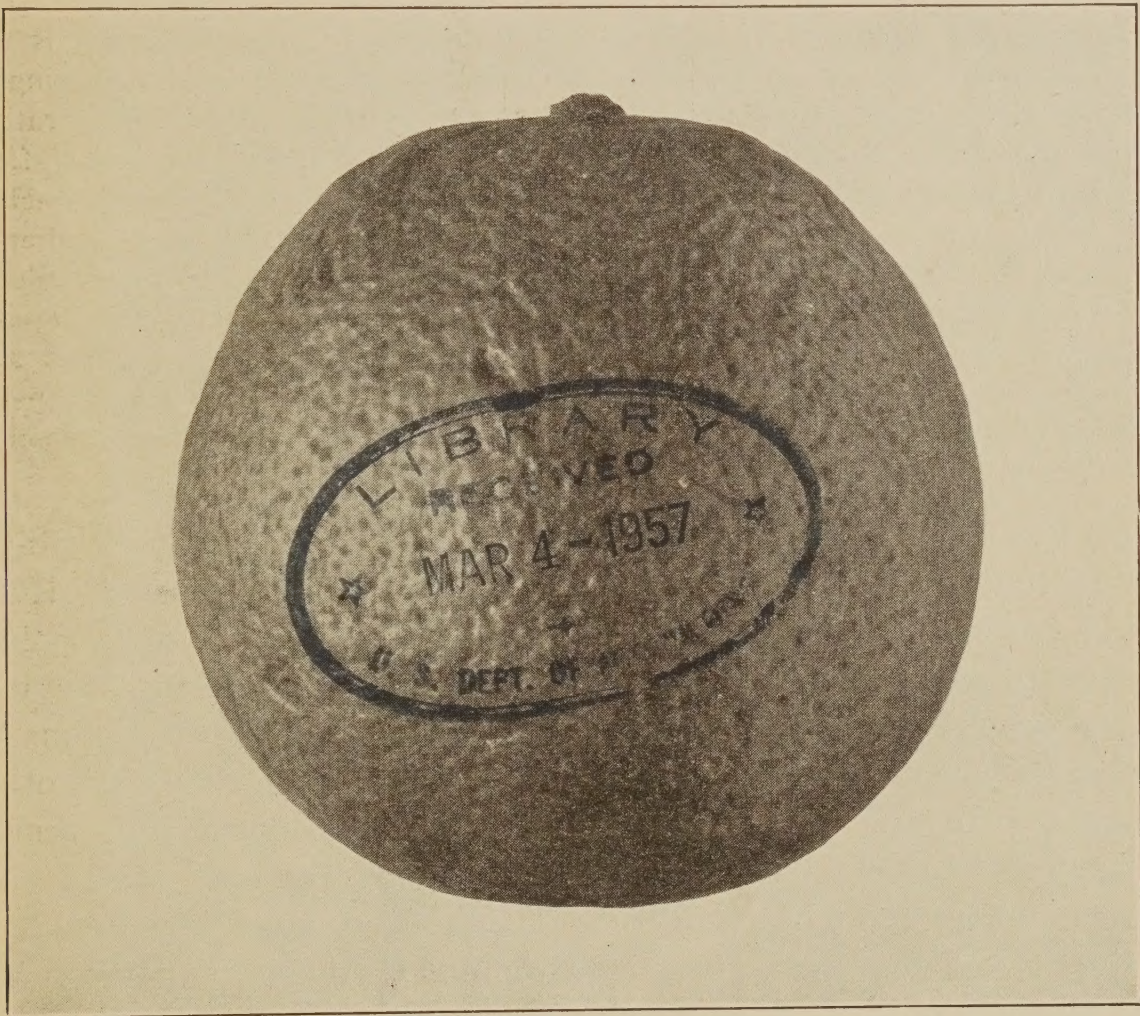


FIG. 1.—Rustic citrange. (Natural size.)

same hybrid fruit as the Colman and Savage and is thus a hybrid of *Trifoliata* with pollen of sweet orange, does not produce as good a fruit as those varieties, but produces a rather more bushy, low-growing tree, which is believed to render it especially desirable for cultivation as a lawn tree or hedge plant. This hybrid has been given the name *Rustic*, which suggests the use for which the variety is recommended.

¹ Reprinted, with slight changes, from "New Citrus and Pineapple Productions of the Department of Agriculture," by Herbert J. Webber, Yearbook, 1906, pp. 334-336.

Figure 1 shows the fruit of a Rustic citrange, while figure 2 illustrates a cross section of this variety.

DESCRIPTION OF FRUIT AND TREE.—Fruit nearly spherical, of medium size, from 2 to $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches in diameter and from 2 to $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height, weight medium, averaging about $5\frac{1}{2}$ ounces per fruit; density lighter than water; color light yellow (by Ridgway's standards chrome yellow); surface covered with small inconspicuous hairs which are scattering and hardly visible without lens, fairly smooth, with small indentations over some of the oil glands, as smooth as many sweet oranges, frequently with slight furrows radiating from the stem and extending toward apex of fruit but seldom reaching beyond middle of fruit; calyx persistent but inconspicuous, as in ordinary orange; rind medium thin, one-eighth to seven thirty-seconds of an inch in thickness, adhering rather closely to fruit, as in ordinary orange bitter to taste; oil glands prominent, mainly round or pear shaped, with major axis at right angles to surface; pulp light, translucent, greenish yellow, similar to the pulp color of ordinary lemons (by Ridgway's standards nearest to primrose yellow, but this color is not exactly correct); pulp vesicles small and slender, not so juicy and melting as the Rusk, Colman, or Savage; segments 6 to 12, separating membranes rather thicker and firmer than in ordinary orange, slightly bitter; texture of fruit moderately tender; axis small, one-fourth inch in diameter; flavor a characteristic citrange acid with some bitterness, rather similar to the Willits; number of seeds variable; some fruits have as high as 24 seeds, while others are seedless; aroma light but pleasant; tree similar to ordinary sweet orange, spreading and branched below, differing in this regard from other citranges; vigorous and cold resistant, evergreen or semi-evergreen, of medium height and shapely; leaves trifoliolate, dark green, larger than those of Trifoliolate orange; season of maturity medium early, from middle of September to last of November.

The tree of the Rustic budded on Trifoliolate orange stock differs considerably in shape from that of any of the other citranges, developing fairly long lower branches, which are more widely spreading than in the Trifoliolate orange or the other citranges, and giving the tree greater breadth near the ground. The tree of the Rustic is thus in shape much nearer to that of the ordinary sweet orange. In the other citranges there are fewer large branches developed near the ground, and such as there are have a tendency to grow erect and stiff, giving the tree a shape more nearly like the Trifoliolate orange. The foliage of the Rustic is dense, dark green, and mainly evergreen, and the twigs, as in the case of all of the citranges, are armed with long, stiff spines. It thus possesses all of the characters which fit it for use as a hedge plant. The Rustic fruits in the seasons of 1904 and 1905 developed numerous seeds, ranging usually from 12 to 24 seeds per fruit. In 1906, however, for some unknown reason almost all of the fruits were nearly seedless. If the variety is to prove satisfactory for hedge purposes, seedy fruits are desired, and it is desirable to learn what factors are conducive to seed production. The writer's experience at the present time is not sufficient to enable him to give intelligent suggestions, but he believes that ordinarily a sufficient number of seeds will be produced to use for propagation purposes. While the seedlings will doubt-

less vary somewhat, the experience with the citranges up to the present time indicates that they almost invariably produce seedlings with foliage characters like those of the parental variety. Cuttings from the citranges can be rooted fairly easily in hothouses with bottom heat, and it may prove practical to propagate trees in this way. Satisfactory stock for planting hedges could be secured by budding on Trifoliate orange stocks, but this would make the plants rather too expensive for hedge purposes.

As in the case of the Savage, it is believed that the Rustic might also prove a desirable hardy stock on which to bud the various clons



FIG. 2.—Cross section of Rustic citrange. (Natural size.)

of the ordinary sweet orange, lemon, etc. If it develops sufficient seeds from which stocks may be grown, the writer would suggest its careful trial for this purpose.

While the fruit of the Rustic is not so large or juicy as some of the other citranges, it is nevertheless of fairly good quality and, as in the case of the other citranges, makes a good citrangeade and may be used in making marmalades, pies, cakes, etc.

Approved :

B. T. GALLOWAY,
Chief of Bureau.

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